

Department of Correction Opens Nation's First Prison-Based Meth Treatment Unit for Females: Commissioner Donahue Lauds Substance Abuse Treatment Professionals, and Sends Message of Recovery

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Indianapolis, (September 7, 2005) - The Indiana Department of Correction is pleased to join in the 2005 celebration of the National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month by announcing the opening of America's first prison-based treatment program for female offenders with methamphetamine addiction. There have been three prison-based meth treatment programs started in Indiana this year, the first at the Miami Correctional Facility, followed by one at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, but this is the first program to be devoted to the special needs of female offenders addicted to meth. Last week it opened its doors to 58 offenders at the Rockville Correctional facility in Parke County, Indiana.

All three meth treatment programs, called Clean Living is Freedom Forever or "CLIFF" units, operate 15 hours a day, 7 days a week. Offenders are supervised by professionally-trained staff and live in a self-contained wing of the prison that can hold inmates of all classifications. The CLIFF Program lasts between 9-to-12 months.

Meth is not the only substance abuse addiction being treated by professionals from the Department of Correction. Currently, between 70-80 percent of the offender population struggles with Alcoholism and/or some form of drug addiction, including heroin and cocaine. To address this widespread need, substance abuse treatment programs are offered in every facility operated by the Department of Correction.

An average of 2,825 offenders are being treated for substance abuse programs at a given time. Over 75,284 hours of treatment was provided to offenders by 119 treatment professionals in 2004. This year, the Department was able to increase the number of inmates receiving treatment by 52%, with more than 56% of the offenders successfully completing substance abuse treatment programs.



“I would like to dedicate this month in recognition of the hard work and commitment of the substance abuse treatment providers, counselors and mental health professionals who help the inmate population deal with their addictions. Staff’s dedication to inmate recovery requires relentless energy and commitment,” said J. David Donahue, Commissioner of the Department.

Later this month, Commissioner Donahue plans to attend the graduation ceremonies of the first group of inmates to successfully complete the CLIFF Program at the Miami Correctional Facility.

“...Thank you for giving me the tools for a second chance at a sober and normal life,” commented an offender about the Miami CLIFF unit.

The Department’s Deputy Commissioner of Re-entry and Community Programs, Julie von Arx, said “Congratulations to all the dedicated employees who work hard to educate and assist offenders in making better choices through recovery. I would also like to applaud the offenders who have used what they learned from the programs offered by the Department to increase their personal success, and improve their chance to reenter the community as productive and law abiding citizens.”

About the Department of Corrections

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department’s home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department’s Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.